

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representatives Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) and John M. McHugh (R-Pierrepont Manor) announced today that they, along with seven cosigners, have submitted a letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to ensure that funding is maintained for three programs critical to our nation's fight against acid rain.

Congressmen Arcuri and McHugh are requesting that the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET), Temporary Integrated Monitoring of Ecosystems (TIME), and Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) programs continue to receive a minimum of \$3.9 million for CASTNET and \$720,000 combined for TIME/LTM. Both Congressmen were successful in their fight to ensure that CASTNET and TIME/LTM were fully funded for FY 2009.

"Water is our greatest natural resource and we must do all we can to protect it. Protecting our environment from devastating acid rain is critical for public health and maintaining our pristine popular tourist attractions like local lakes and the Adirondacks," **said Arcuri**. "Caring for our natural resources isn't just an environmental issue, it is vital for our local economy. That's why this bipartisan effort to seek continued funding for the Environmental Protection Agency is so critical. We must ensure that programs monitoring the dangerous toxins in acid rain are fully funded. I will continue to work with Representative McHugh on this important fight."

"As those in Northern and Central New York know all too well, acid rain has had a severe and detrimental impact on large parts of the United States, particularly in New York. Forests and lakes in the Adirondacks have been decimated by acid rain pollutants. In addition to ensuring that appropriate federal regulations are enacted to limit acid rain causing pollutants, we also must take action to monitor and correct the existing impact," **said McHugh**. "These three programs are critical in our fight against acid rain and I am committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to ensure that CASTNET, TIME, and LTM are maintained and funded at their historic levels."

"We urge all members of Congress to support this request, especially those from the states that are hardest hit by acid rain, smog and fine-particulate air pollution," **said Brian Houseal, Executive Director of the Adirondack Council, an environmental organization that has been a national leader in the fight against acid rain since 1975**

. "Essentially, everyone east of the Rocky Mountains, plus everyone in Colorado and California, has a direct, personal stake in the future of these crucial research and pollution-monitoring programs. We are proud to say our own Congressmen, John McHugh and Michael Arcuri, are

leading the struggle to preserve the funding. We urge the rest of Congress to join them right away.”

“Protection and restoration of the eastern brook trout is one of Trout Unlimited's highest priorities, and maintaining adequate funding for these critical air monitoring programs is an essential piece of our long term brook trout conservation strategy,” **said Steve Moyer, Vice President for government affairs for Trout Unlimited**

. “We deeply appreciate the leadership of Representatives McHugh and Arcuri, and the other sponsors as well, in developing this very important letter of support for the programs.”

Acid rain, which is principally caused by sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), destroys forests, kills fish, and poisons water. Additionally, scientific studies have identified a relationship between elevated levels of the fine particles that cause acid rain and increased illness and premature death from heart and lung disorders, such as asthma and bronchitis.

Established in 1987, CASTNET is the nation's primary source for atmospheric data on dry acidic deposition, rural ground-level ozone and other forms of atmospheric pollution that enter the environment as particles and gases, such as mercury. Currently, the CASTNET program is at 86 sites in over 40 states, including three sites in New York. The EPA has deemed CASTNET critical to maintaining accountability of the Acid Rain Program, the temporarily reinstated Clean Air Interstate Rule, and other programs for controlling transported air pollutants.

TIME and LTM are the only extensive networks in the Eastern United States that evaluate the status and potential recovery of sensitive ecosystems, which are particularly vulnerable to further damage from acid rain. TIME monitors a statistically chosen sample of lakes and streams once per year to allow scientists to determine what proportion of the lakes and streams in a region are affected by acid rain. LTM frequently monitors the chemistry of acid sensitive lakes and streams.

[Full text of letter:](#)

Dear Chairman Norm Dicks and Ranking Member Michael Simpson:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, we respectfully request that, at a minimum, \$3.9 million is included under the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Status and Trends Network program (CASTNET) and that \$720,000 is included for the Temporarily Integrated Monitoring of Ecosystems (TIME) and Long-Term Management (LTM) program. Additionally, we appreciate the Committee's efforts in securing \$3.9 million for CASTNET and \$720,000 for TIME/LTM in Fiscal Year 2009.

CASTNET is the nation's primary source for atmospheric data on dry acidic deposition, rural ground-level ozone and other forms of atmospheric pollution that enter the environment as particles and gases, such as mercury. Established in 1987 with 86 sites currently in over 40 states, CASTNET operates in conjunction with other national monitoring networks to provide information on the effectiveness of national emission control strategies. According to the EPA, CASTNET is critical to maintaining accountability of the Acid Rain Program, the temporarily reinstated Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), and other programs for controlling transported air pollutants. The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act funded CASTNET at \$3.9 million, and we request that, at a minimum, this level is continued.

Sensitive ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to further damage from acid rain. TIME and LTM are the only extensive networks in the eastern United States which evaluate the status and potential recovery of these sensitive ecosystems by examining the quality of surface water. TIME monitors a statistically chosen sample of lakes and streams once per year to allow scientists to determine what proportion of the lakes and streams in a region are affected by acid rain. LTM frequently monitors the chemistry of acid sensitive lakes and streams. The FY09 Omnibus Appropriations legislation funded these programs at \$720,000, and we request that, at a minimum, this level is continued

Acid rain, principally caused by nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and sulfur dioxide (SO_x), destroys our forests, kills our fish, and poisons our water. Many scientific studies have identified a relationship between elevated levels of the fine particles that cause acid rain and increased illness and premature death from heart and lung disorders, such as asthma and bronchitis. The CAIR calls for significant reductions in nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions beginning in 2009 through 2015. With these critical new regulations pending, it is imperative that the programs principally charged with monitoring this progress are not effectively eliminated.

We respectfully request that you fund the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET) program at a minimum level of \$3.9 million and the Temporarily Integrated Monitoring of Ecosystems (TIME) and Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) surface water monitoring programs at a minimum level of \$720,000. Thank you for your kind consideration of our request.

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